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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET-CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY Austria REPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC Soviet sponsored "National League"

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]**RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY**

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1. former Nazis who are now disappointed members of the VDU (Association of Independents) in Vienna and Lower Austria are being subjected to propaganda from the Soviet-sponsored "National League" (NL).
2. the NL emerged from cover when it appeared that Heger's "National-Demokratischer Verband" (National Democratic Association) would fail. Figl is NL chairman, Slavik, a former SS leader, is vice-chairman. The carefully conducted propaganda activities primarily appeal to leaders of the old regime. All invitations to meetings are written. A meeting was held on 10 March 1950 for dismissed administrative officials and police and followed a rally for former members of the National-Socialist Officers' Association. Special meetings were also held for SS Armed Forces Officers, HW leaders and DAF functionaries.
3. The principal theme at these meetings is that: "It is impossible to prevent the establishment of the People's Democracy in Austria. This will be achieved by the Soviet Union in one way or another. Former Nazis who adhere to the Austrian People's Party will naturally have no future in a People's Democracy, but those who join the NL will also find relief from their financial difficulties. The Soviet Union demands nothing but a loyal attitude."
4. Strict enforcement of the denazification law in Vienna and Lower Austria makes it easy to understand why many people incriminated under that law are gullible targets in this propaganda campaign which is said to be personally conducted by General Gviridov. Gviridov speaks fluent German, has engaging manners and has an attractive personality. Persons

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interested in the NL may contact Gviridov. It is alleged that he never fails to receive a visitor from this group.

5. The Soviets support this propaganda action in Vienna and Lower Austria with a number of agitation measures and intensive spoken propaganda to the effect that the conversion of Austria into a people's democracy is inevitable.
6. The greatest psychological blow was when the Soviets asked the lower Austrian government for a life history of each official assigned to it. When the Federal government refused to comply with this request, the Soviets demanded biographies of those officials who had been members of the Nazi Party. Though also rejected, this request came as a shock to all officials concerned. Many of them will probably compromise by joining the Communist Party of Austria or the NL.

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